

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

In the specification, please amend the paragraph on page 4, line 30- page 5, line 7, of the published PCT application as follows:

--- In particular, the antibody specific for *Yersinia pestis* V-antigen or binding fragment thereof specifically binds an epitope of the V-antigen found between amino acids 1 and 275 and preferably an epitope found between amino acids 135-275 of the sequence of the V-antigen as shown for instance in WO 96/28551 that issued as U.S. Patent 5,985,285 on November 16, 1999. Passive transfer of LcrV-specific polyclonal antiserum protected mice against plague and that protective epitopes were assigned to region 168-275 (Motin, V. L. et al, 1994, Infection and Immunity 62: 4192-4201). Similarly, Mab 7.3 used in the present application has been mapped to bind to a conformational epitope between aa 135-275 of LcrV (Hill, J. et al. 1997. Infection and Immunity 65: 4476-4482). Therefore, this central region of LcrV appears to be a good target for antibodies useful in the present invention.---